



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

12437 Ladue Rd, St Louis MO 63141

www.traditional-congregation.org

314-576-5230 traditionalcong@gmail.com

Affiliated with the Union for Traditional Judaism
Rabbi Seth D Gordon



August 21-22, 2026

ט אלול תשפ"ו

Candlelighting 7:29 PM

Parashat Ki Tetze - Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 כי תצא
Stone – p 1046 Hertz – p 840 Etz Hayim – p 1112

Haftarah – Isaiah 54:1-10 ישעיהו
Fifth Week of Consolation
Stone – p 1201 Hertz – p 857 Etz Hayim – p 1138

Kiddush is sponsored
by the congregation

Shabbat ends 8:28 PM

TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION

Rabbi Seth D Gordon - Rabbi.Gordon@yahoo.com
Marian S. Gordon, Executive Director - traditionalcong@gmail.com

WEEKDAY AND SHABBAT SERVICES

Tuesday - 6:45 PM

Shabbat - 9:30 AM

Governance Committee:

Florence Schachter, Chair

Marty Levy, Vice-Chair

Ken Bohm, Ellis Frohman, Ron Green,

Dina Rinder, Mindy Strauss

Ellis Frohman, Financial Vice President

Mark Weinstein, Ritual Vice President

Marty Levy/Mindy Strauss,

Education Co-Vice Presidents

Dina Rinder, Membership Vice President

Steven Puro, Administration Vice President

Chris Brown/Justin Zeid, Building & Grounds

Co-Vice Presidents

Ron Green, Fundraising Vice President

Barbara Levin, Treasurer

Mimi Levy, Secretary

Past Presidents:

Kenneth H. Bohm, Phil Brick

Members at Large:

Maureen Brodsky

Stanley Estrin

Bill Gold

Jack Heller

Sid Levin

Ari Levy

Carol Max

Florence Schachter

We welcome new members!

If you or someone you know would like to receive membership information,
please contact our office at 314-576-5230
or traditionalcong@gmail.com

On This Week's Torah Portion - Ki Tetze

During the 15th century religious wars in Europe, a battle took place between the Hussites and the Catholics in what is now Horice, Czech Republic. Though far outnumbered and outgunned, under the leadership of their blind general Jan Žižka, the Hussite army took the high ground and built a wagon fort on top.

The sophisticated Catholic cavalry and cannons proved futile, unable to climb such steep hills or fire in an upwards direction. It didn't take long before the Hussite army was able to muster up a counterattack and swoop down the mountain to claim a decisive victory. They triumphed not because they fought better or had superior numbers, but because of one simple thing: they had the high ground. They started out on top of their enemy. From there, the rest was relatively easy.

Parshat Ki Teitzei begins with a verse about going to war: When you go out to war against your enemies, and the L-rd, your G-d, will deliver him into your hands, and you take his captives ...

A more literal translation, however, would read: "When you go out to war on top of your enemies..." The obvious question is, what does it mean to wage war "on top of" your enemy?

The first thing to understand is that this verse is not just an ancient command relevant to marauding armies equipped with sabers and bows. Rather, it speaks to people battling any opposition to their moral, religious, or overall well-being.

With profound psychological insight, the Chassidic masters explained that a person has multiple spiritual-emotional layers. In broad terms, they are the "conscious" and "subconscious" terrains of our emotional and psychological landscape, a duality the Kabbalists labeled the "inner" and "outer" heart.

The outer heart is the more external part of yourself, the "I" that says, "I want pizza, Lamborghinis, and a good movie." Do you want those things? Yes. Do those desires reflect who you really are? I suppose not.

And then there's the "inner heart," far deeper and closer to who you really are. At this level, you're no longer talking about how much you'd love to get the next model smartphone. At this level, your desires and convictions are manifestations of your truest self. Usually, things like family, a desire to live, as well as a drive to make the world a better place are the things people talk about when expressing their "inner heart."

The key to winning most battles in life, the Kabbalists explain, is to access this "inner heart." When you're faced with a challenge and you're feeling beaten down by the pressure, remember: you're better than that. It is your conscious self, your "outer heart" that is being challenged, but your truer self, the core "you" that hopes and dreams for meaningful and altruistic things, is far above this challenge.

The more you can peel away the outer heart and remind yourself that you are defined by your inner self, the higher you will automatically place yourself above your enemy—you will have taken the strategic high ground. The opposition doesn't stand a chance against you, for your truer, inner, and deeper self doesn't see it as a challenge to begin with. The real you is concerned with better things, pristine and victorious.

Think about this way: You're fighting with your spouse, your child, your parent, your friend—whatever it may be. You're heated up and starting to feel like you hate them, yourself, the world. You fidget, you're angry, you're calling them all kinds of ugly names and thinking ugly thoughts. You feel exhausted as this is the hundredth time it's happened. You feel like you want to rip them to shreds, only to realize that doing so will make you lose once again.

You're losing. Big time. The very ground between you is burning, and you know that whether you "win" or "lose," you will both lose. All you want to do now is bust out of the closed space you're in and transport yourself to Mars until this apocalyptic conflict is over.

Remember: "On top of your enemy." Do different. Do better.

Think about how amazing you are. You don't deserve this. You're a person with so much inner strength and a promising list of achievements. Who you really are has nothing to do with this loser getting hot under the collar.

You're the person with dreams, hopes, and talents to share with the world. You're the person your friends/children/spouse adore, who has an incredible relationship with G-d, who can bat .400 any day. You have a deep soul that is involved with incredible things, with noble and edifying ambitions. Why are you getting sucked into this vortex of toxicity? This is not you, and you don't need this in your life at all.

Step up and be "over" your enemy. Take the strategic high ground.

Congratulations. You've already won.

**Shabbat Shalom,
Rabbi Aharon Loschak**



TRADITIONAL CONGREGATION HIGH HOLYDAYS - 5787

MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING (those whose past-due accounts and 1/2 current year dues have been paid) are entitled to attend High Holyday Services at no additional charge.

Non-members of Traditional, including adult children and grandchildren of member families, are invited to join us for in-person services.

DONATIONS FOR GUEST SEATS ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATED.

<https://www.traditional-congregation.org/donate>

SEAT REQUESTS

REQUESTS FOR GUEST SEAT(S) MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 28, 2026

Indicate the day(s) each person is planning to attend services.

HOLYDAY(S) ATTENDING: (use additional sheet if needed)

PLEASE PROVIDE FULL NAME	<i>ROSH</i> <i>HASHANAH-1</i>	<i>ROSH</i> <i>HASHANAH-2</i>	<i>YOM</i> <i>HAKIPPURIM</i>	<i>ALL</i> <i>HOLYDAYS</i>
ADULTS –indicate holyday(s) for EACH person:	ONLY	ONLY	ONLY	

Name_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Name_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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ADDRESS:_____

PHONE:_____

CHILDREN: Name/Age – indicate Holyday(s) for each child:

Name: _____ Age/School grade: _____ RH____ YK____

Name : _____ Age/School grade: _____ RH____ YK____

MAIL SEAT REQUEST FORM TO:

Traditional Congregation, 12437 Ladue Road, STL MO 63141-8100
or email pdf or photo to: traditionalcong@gmail.com Phone (314) 576-5230

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Requests must be received by August 28, 2026

Schedule of Services is available at <https://www.traditional-congregation.org/>

Israeli Jewelry – A History in Silver

Join Maureen Brodsky for an illustrated talk in which we explore the cultural influences, economic pressures and design solutions that created the distinctive look of Israeli jewelry.

Sunday,
August 30, 2026
Light Israeli
Breakfast
@ 10:00 AM
followed by
the program

No charge.
Share the Fare
donations are
appreciated.



Wear/bring your
own Israeli jewelry!



RSVP to:
traditionalcong@gmail.com
with names of all attending



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Join us
for
Selichot
at
B'nai
Amoona

Advance
registration
required



Selichot Speaker

8:15 PM | SATURDAY, SEPT 5

RETIRED LT. COL. OR HORVITZ

Horvitz is a strategic leader and Middle East commentator with over 17 years of experience in Middle Eastern affairs, U.S.-Israel relations, intelligence, and national security. A former Lieutenant Colonel in Israeli Defense Intelligence, Horvitz played a central role in post-October 7 transformation efforts within Israel's intelligence community and in Israel's campaigns against Hezbollah and Iran. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**



Selichot Schedule

SATURDAY, SEPT 5

8:15 PM: HAVDALAH AND PRE-SELICHOT DISCUSSION WITH RETIRED LT. COL. OR HORVITZ

9:25 PM: DESSERTS & COFFEE

10:00 PM: SELICHOT SERVICE

PRAYER

We thank you for this place in which we dwell.

For the love that unites us; for the peace accorded us this day.

For the hope with which we expect the morrow;
For the health, the work, the food and the bright skies
that make our lives delightful.

*For our friends in all parts of the earth,
And for our friendly helpers in this foreign isle.*

Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind.

Spare to us our friends, soften to us our enemies.

Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors.

*If it may not, give us the strength to encounter that
which is to come, that we be brave in peril, constant in
tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune
and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another.*

**Robert Louis Stevenson
(Adapted)**

THOUGHT FOR THE MOMENT OF SILENCE

If you are successful, remember that somewhere, sometimes, someone gave you a lift or an idea that started you in the right direction. Remember, also, that you are indebted to life until you help some less fortunate person just as you were helped.

Napoleon Hill